

EC-6646. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Slayton, MN" (Docket 98-AGL-35) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6647. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of VOR Federal Airway; WA" (Docket 97-ANM-23) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6648. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Kearney, NE" (Docket 98-ACE-34) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6649. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Beatrice, NE" (Docket 98-ACE-32) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6650. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Ottumwa, IA" (Docket 98-ACE-27) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6651. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establish Class E Airspace; Davenport, IA" (Docket 97-ACE-21) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 389. A bill to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-299).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2431. A bill to provide support for the human rights and treatment of international victims of torture; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. KERREY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2432. A bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 2433. A bill to protect consumers and financial institutions by preventing personal financial information from being obtained

from financial institutions under false pretenses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 2434. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 2435. A bill to permit the denial of airport access to certain air carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. THOMPSON):

S. Res. 270. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate concerning actions that the President of the United States should take to resolve the dispute between the Air Line Pilots Association and Northwest Airlines; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2432. A bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, ten years ago Congress passed the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act, referred to as the "Tech Act". My friend, Senator HARKIN, was the principal sponsor in the Senate. I was the principal sponsor in the House. Both Houses of Congress worked together and passed the same legislation on the same day. Once again, Senator HARKIN and I, with our colleague Senator BOND, joined forces to draft the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA), which we are introducing today with the co-sponsorship of Senators KENNEDY, FRIST, COLLINS, MCCONNELL, REED, and KERRY. Once again, we are working toward expeditious consideration of legislation that promotes access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. With the assistance of our colleagues in the Senate and the other body, I am confident that the ATA will become law. The ATA authorizes funding for assistive technology activities for fiscal years 1999 through 2004.

The ATA builds on the success of its predecessor, the Tech Act. The Tech Act sunsets September 30, 1998. This will result in the termination of federal assistance to nine states for promoting access to assistive technology

for individuals with disabilities, and place the remainder of the states in jeopardy of diminished or no funding during or after fiscal year 1999.

Through the ATA the Senate has the opportunity to reaffirm the federal role of promoting access to assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. The bill allows States flexibility in responding to the assistive technology needs of their citizens with disabilities, and does not disrupt the ongoing work of the 50 State assistive technology programs funded under the Tech Act.

These programs make a difference. Access to assistive technology for an individual with a disability means independence, ability to work or attend school, and the opportunity to participate in community life. Lack of access to assistive technology means dependence and isolation.

In my State of Vermont, Lynne Cleveland is the project director for our Tech Project. Lynne testified before the Labor and Human Resources Committee on April 29, 1998 on the impact of the Vermont Tech Project on the lives of Vermonters with disabilities. For example, one of the many things the Vermont Tech Project supports is a rehabilitation engineering technician program, the only one in the nation, at Vermont Technical College. Graduates of the program work for schools, non-profit agencies, state agencies, and vendors helping others make appropriate, cost-effective decisions regarding assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and educating others about the need for and value of the individual with a disability having a central role in such decisions.

The Vermont Tech Project touches and changes the lives of individual Vermonters of all ages and walks of life. For Bill, a man in his mid-thirties who suffered a stroke, the Tech Project helped secure assistive technology that enabled him to obtain employment designing web pages. Equally important to Bill is that assistive technology enables him to talk again with his children. For Ray, who lost his vision in mid-life, acquiring assistive technology has allowed him to continue as a snowplow dispatcher for the State of Vermont. For Ty, a teenager born with a visual impairment, access to assistive technology means she can pursue her goal of becoming a lawyer. For Annie, a first grader with Downs Syndrome, having assistive technology means that she can use the computer in a regular education classroom, learning and playing games with her classmates. For Lillian, a senior citizen, access to and training on a closed circuit television, enables her to stay in her home rather than living in a nursing home. The Vermont Tech Project has touched each of these individuals by working with others to change policies, improve coordination, pool resources, and educate people about the benefits of assistive technology.